

Our Mission: To preserve and present the history and heritage of the sugar industry, and the multi-ethnic plantation life it engendered, for residents and visitors.



On the worldwide web at:
www.sugarmuseum.com

Email: sugarmus@maui.net

Fax: 808-871-4321

Phone: 808-871-8058

Puunene, Hawaii 96784

P.O. Box 125

3957 Hansen Road

Sugar Museum
Alexander & Baldwin

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Puunene HI
Permit No. 72

Maui Sugar Plantation Festival: August 6

That's the date - save it! The Sugar Museum's third annual Maui Sugar Plantation Festival is set for Saturday, August 6, 2005, on the grounds of the Sugar Museum. Admission to the museum will be only \$1.00 that day and the rest of it is all FREE!

There isn't any experience on the island quite like the Maui Sugar Plantation Festival. It's a multi-cultural cornucopia of music, dance, food, demonstrations, exhibits and displays and the ever-popular "plantation days" games for kids.

Do you want to volunteer? The Festival needs about 100 volunteers on site on festival day. We could use your help for just a couple of hours. If you'd like to be part of it, please give us a call. All volunteers will get a free lunch ticket and free Museum passes. Please call us at 871-8058.

Look for your Maui Sugar Plantation Festival invitation in your July mail!

Having a Reunion? Bring your group to the Sugar Museum. Camp reunions and class reunions whose members have plantation roots will enjoy the step back into their past. The Sugar Museum will offer free admission to these groups when notified in advance. Give us a call at 871-8058.

P.S. Everyone gather at the Maui Sugar Plantation Festival!



Sugar Museum

Spring 2005 Vol. 2 Issue 2

news

The Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum
in historic Puunene, Maui

Sugar Museum Took Root in 1902 Plantation Home

When you visit the Sugar Museum, it's hard to avoid noticing how much it looks just like an old plantation house, inside and out. In fact, that is just what it is.

The Sugar Museum was created from the former residence of the Puunene factory superintendent and his family. The building is one of only a few surviving from the once-thriving plantation town of Puunene, and is now 103 years old.

Extensive planning and research went into turning the former home into the Museum. The building's exterior was restored and renovated and the yard was landscaped as it might have been in the 1930s. Galleries and exhibits were constructed in three-dimensional scale models before the exhibits were installed.

When it opened as a museum in 1987, Museum Director Gaylord Kubota revealed some of the "secrets" behind its designs and use of the interior space. The challenge was to turn the rooms of the plantation house into galleries that would take advantage of the building's architectural features.

The Museum's "Human Resources Room" has a picture window which looks directly out at the

HC&S sugar factory, located across the street. The splendid view from the window fits into the room's storyline by relating how Alexander & Baldwin built this factory to replace the one at Spreckelsville after gain-



Housed in a former plantation residence, the Sugar Museum's exhibits were designed to preserve the historic feel of its beautiful century-old home.

ing control of HC&S from their chief rival, Claus Spreckels.

A walk-in closet in the same room was converted into two exhibit cases by partitioning it and cutting into one end from an adjacent room. By modifying the closet, two exhibit cases were created without intruding upon the limited gallery floor space in the house.

The building's 12-foot-high ceilings were also used to good advantage. They accommodated a floor-to-ceiling photo mural of workers laying a water pipeline down the steep

slope of Maliko Gulch to create an inverted siphon.

Efforts were made to convey the feeling that the viewer is still in a room of a residence rather than in a gallery. This was particularly important in the largest room, the enclosed lanai, which ran two-thirds of the way across the front of the building. To preserve the magnificent spaciousness of the room and its attractive windows, additional walls or dividers, large objects or tall exhibit cases were avoided. The low cases with see-through tops enable a viewer entering the room to look down its entire length and appreciate its beauty as a room. One of the room's tall, narrow win-

dows was converted into a naturally back-lit bottle display case.

The planning that went into creating the Sugar Museum was later validated by awards and recognitions. The Museum received an award for "Preservation and Adaptive Use of a Plantation Home" from the Historic Hawaii Foundation, a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association of State and Local History, and the prestigious Kahili award from the Hawaii Visitor's Bureau.

Board of Directors

John C. Baldwin • Richard F. Cameron • Meredith J. Ching • G. Stephen Holaday • William Kennison • Roger MacArthur
• Howard K. Nakamura • Stephen H. Onaga • Ken S. Ota • Audrey Rocha Reed • Maryanna G. Shaw • Douglas A. Sheehan
• A.D. "Puck" Waterhouse

Gaylord Kubota, Museum Director • Paula Loomis, Assistant Director

